

## CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Public

DATE: January 12, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Police Chief Kevin Treadway, Deputy Chief Dan Musselman

CC: Josh Copley, Jerene Watson, Leadership Team

SUBJECT: Axon Body Camera Program at the Flagstaff Police Department

This report is in response to a request from Councilmember Evans for further information on the current status of the Axon Body Cameras Program.

### Discussion

The Flagstaff Police Department values customer service and citizen trust. Body camera video aids in prosecution, accurately documenting victim and witness statements as well as an objective recording of the crime scene. The use of body cameras allows us to be more transparent in our interactions with the public. The demeanor of both officers and suspects is less contentious when both parties are aware they are being recorded. As a risk management tool, the video may alleviate false accusations of wrong doing.

### Executive Summary:

In the Spring of 2014, the Police Department conducted a pilot program with the Taser Axon Flex Camera Systems. The program was well received by the officers who volunteered to utilize the cameras. A couple falsely made citizen complaints were easily unfounded upon video review by supervisors.

After speaking with other agencies, reviewing the research and conducting an internal pilot program, we felt the Taser Axon Flex body camera was the best system on the market.

Benefits of the Taser Axon Flex System as compared to other systems include:

- A higher capacity recording life (12 hours).
- The multiple point of view mounting options.
- Pre-event recording (30 seconds).
- Low light and night mode capability.

The evidence management system (Evidence.com) allows for easy download and categorization of incidents, retrieval for disclosure or supervisory oversight,

and allows departments to set up automatic retention periods in line with state and local law.

During the April budget retreat, limited one time funding was identified to put toward the Taser Axon Cameras and storage program. In July 2014, Council formally approved the funding of \$117,000 for the Axon Flex camera program to outfit 50 patrol officers. The initial amount of \$48,628.10, allowed for the purchase of 50 Axon flex body cameras with mounting, charging, and docking accessories and professional services. The cost for evidence storage and retention was estimated to be \$12,446.16 annually, or \$62,230.80 for the five year contract.

After equipment was ordered and training conducted, the program went live in October of 2014. Lessons learned included the need for more administrative evidence accounts to allow supervisors to review the videos of officers, for further investigation and to be used as a tool for training. We also learned viewing and redacting the video evidence prior to release to other agencies, courts, attorneys, and for public records requests, was time intensive.

Based on previous costs and estimates each camera and storage is estimated at \$2500 per camera/person. Below is a cost estimate to expand the program to outfit our remaining officers, listed in priority order:

1) The eight (8) Special Weapons and Tactics Team members	\$20,000
2) The remaining ten (10) Specialty Officers	\$25,000
3) The eight (8) Patrol Corporals	\$20,000
4) The eight (8) Patrol Sergeants	\$20,000
Total amount to outfit all the above:	\$85,000

Public records requests can be made in person, by phone (774-1414), by mail or by email to the records supervisor ([swhitmore@coconino.az.gov](mailto:swhitmore@coconino.az.gov)). If the incident is still under investigation, the release will be delayed. Otherwise the video is pulled and copy is made. The copy is then reviewed by a City Attorney and redacted as needed. The cost is \$30.00 per contact disc.